

THE

Suwannee Democrat.

PUBLISHING COMPANY
Publishers.Published every Friday at
122 Conner St., Live Oak, Fla.Subscription Price:
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

Telephone 34

Carried at the Live Oak Postoffice as
second-class matter.

Some of our esteemed contemporaries say at the homely old provincial "pistol-toter," and do not hesitate to pronounce it inelegant. It is; but in view of the much greater inelegance of the pistol-toter himself, we have slight of the minor departure from good taste. If he will cease to tote his pistol and no longer compel society to tote the burden of his vile, criminal habit, we will tote fair with the English language and dissolve partnership with the inelegant tote forever.

Mr. Taft will visit Atlanta on the 15th of this month and be entertained by the chamber of commerce at a "possum and tater" banquet. The president-elect is credited with a strong desire to dissolve the Solid South by melting it with kindness and tact, and in the use of the following language he comes dangerously near to making a good start in that direction:

"I have had a lifetime longing to taste 'possum and taters.' My visit to the South will be incomplete unless this wish is realized."

We of the South are weakest on our hospitable side, and this "possum and tater" scheme may be the Trojan horse designed for our undoing.

On New Year's day the Tampa Tribune was fifteen years old and with all our heart we congratulate our big, strong and able contemporary upon the anniversary. The Tribune is a paper of extraordinary merit in all its departments. Its growth from a puny and untimely infancy to its present metropolitan size and excellence is something wonderful. Only a man of the caliber of the late Wallace Stovall could have done it, and he and Mr. B. F. Leach and the other members of the staff make up a striking Florida newspaper men we are proud to greet as brethren and associates with now and then when we have the golden opportunity.

The Democrat's recent modest little "omission" of a Christmas editorial, about two sticksful in length, is referred to by the Pensacola News as "the champion long-distance wish;" by the Ocala Banner as "a sweet Christmas editorial;" and by the Lakeland News as "about the best and most timely article we have seen during the holidays." All of which proves that the noble Setzerian art of sticking your nose in the "e" box and extemporizing is sometimes the better way to do it. We are particularly gratified that that stern old Roman, Bro. Harris, of the Ocala Banner, should have discovered the saccharine quality in our chaste Christmas aspiration for the general good of the human race, for to write real sweet little pieces is the dearest wish of our editorial heart, our maxim being that we care not who supplies the salt of a nation so long as we are permitted to furnish the sugar.

Andrew Carnegie made his vast fortune by the tariff on steel. He has retired from the tariff and is now engaged in the strongest terms. He is a nation do such and manhood be regarded upon the words of perfectly of

COL. ROBERSON FOR SPEAKER.

Who shall be the speaker of the house in the approaching session of the legislature, is now a live question in Florida politics, and among the names prominently mentioned in that connection is that of Col. L. E. Roberson of this city, member-elect of the next legislature from Suwannee county. Col. Roberson has received some strong assurances of support for the place from influential members of the next house, and there are good reasons for believing that he can be elected. He is in every way qualified for the position, and the Democrat, voicing the wishes of the people of this city and county, trusts that in the competition for this honor our fellow-citizen may be the winner. Col. Roberson is so well known in this section of the State that it is hardly necessary to go into details concerning him, but for the information of others it is proper to say something of his character and career out of which grow his claims to the high office of the speakership.

He has been for the greater part of his life a citizen of Florida and is a successful lawyer of solid and recognized ability. In Jasper, where he formerly resided, he was twice elected mayor, and was twice State's attorney by appointment on the recommendation of a large majority of the lawyers of this circuit. He did his work so well that on the adoption of the primary system he was unanimously chosen for a third term, at the end of which he retired without seeking re-election. His record as State's attorney was a strong one and entirely creditable to him as a capable and conscientious public servant. A marked tribute to his character as a man and a lawyer was his election as the first president of the bar association of the Third judicial circuit. Col. Roberson has an extensive practice in both the State and Federal courts, and in the course of his long experience at the bar and duties incidental to his profession he has developed into a strong debater and acquired a good knowledge of parliamentary law. He is a man of fine presence, thoughtful and conservative, and like Davy Crockett, he first makes sure he is right and then goes ahead. He would preside over the house at Tallahassee with impartiality and justice to all and his administration of the office would be marked by the absence of radicalism and an earnest desire to do right in every ruling that he made. His private life and relations as a citizen in this community are most exemplary and are an ample guaranty of the moral atmosphere that would surround the speaker's office in the event of his election.

Col. Roberson is fitted in every way for the place, and as a Suwannee county representative has never yet been honored with this office, our people think that they are entitled to recognition this time when they present so capable a candidate as our stalwart representative-elect.

OUR NEW GOVERNOR.

Governor Gilchrist assumes the duties of his office under fortunate auspices. Fortunate because he comes in with the cordial respect and good will of all the people of all classes in Florida and with the handicap of no faction upon him to breed for him an abundant crop of enemies right from the start. His personality is a strong one with nothing spectacular about it and he is rich in the saving common sense and quiet force of character without which no man can succeed in an executive position. In temperament, experience, native capacity and high purpose to do his duty our new governor is all that the people desire and there is no cloud upon the horizon of his official future. He has no enemies to punish; is untrammelled by no embarrassing pledges, and with broad and definite convictions without bigotry on leading State issues there is no reason in sight why his administration should not run smoothly and give Florida four years of good, clean government. The Democrat joins with all the State press in extending good wishes to Governor Gilchrist for his success as the official head of the commonwealth.

Let us all turn a moment from the grewsome news of the sad old world with its earthquake horrors and daily record of every form of sin and sorrow and catch a refreshing breath from the higher levels and purer altitudes of life. The glad news comes that Colonel James J. Corbett, the refined and cultured gentleman pugilist, has emerged from his long retirement and announced his purpose to lick the stuff out of Jack Johnson, the Texas negro who recently won the heavyweight championship of the world from Burns, a white man, in Australia. Colonel Corbett

(who, by the way, was knighted colonel in Florida after he licked the bloody, bloomin', blasted Mitchell on our sacred soil), is a great artist in his line, and the impact of his noble fist upon an adversary's nose is said to instantly reveal to the owner of the nose a bewildering collection of dazzling stars unknown to the telescope and not even equalled in overpowering scenic effect by the firmament itself on a cloudless night. We wish the Colonel much luck.

Governor Broward retires to private life with plenty of friends and a full share of enemies. No man of his force of character and determined purpose ever fails to have both. We have never heard his integrity and conscientious devotion to duty as Governor of Florida questioned by any one, and he leaves Tallahassee with clean hands and a clear conscience. He has made mistakes and has cared little for the fine quality of tact in the administration of his office, but now that he is out his rectitude of purpose and zeal for the public good will be chiefly remembered and his errors largely forgotten by a generous people. If his great drainage scheme fails the fault will be laid at his door; if it succeeds he must be given entire credit for his courageous initiative in the face of large difficulties, and the reclaimed Everglades will entitle him to a full page in the history of Florida.

The Havana News puts the argument for prohibition strongly and in a nutshell when it says:

"Sufficient booze has been shipped in this week to cause some comment, but that is to be expected at this season. If there is any consolation to be derived from this fact at all it is that even twice this amount shipped in would not be half so bad as an open saloon."

No law is a complete cure or preventive for a widespread, deeply-rooted evil, for its enforcement depends upon imperfect human agencies, but if the best practicable enforcement succeeds in materially reducing the evil the law is fully justified as a measure for the public benefit and safety. The prohibition law does that much good undoubtedly. The occasional express package is an evil of small proportions compared to the ever-present temptation of the open saloon.

In view of the recent decision of the supreme court of Florida declaring unconstitutional the act of the legislature granting State aid to our graded schools the Jasper News is strictly in order when it says, "But in the light of the decision we naturally inquire, of what use is a judiciary committee in the legislative proceedings anyway?" If the law is a science and lawyers are scientists, why didn't the lawyers of the judiciary committee know that this act submitted to them before its passage, was unconstitutional and so declare it, thus preventing all this mess that has resulted from somebody's neglect of duty or unfitness to discharge that duty? Probably the answer is, that there are lawyers and lawyers.

The Florida Press

NO PLUMS JUST YET.

It is announced that Governor Gilchrist has consented to permit all the appointees to serve out the full term for which they were appointed. This being true there will be no very juicy plums to drop before the latter part of Governor Gilchrist's term. Good for the office-holders, but oh, so hard, on the army of those who were waiting for the new governor to take hold of the reins.—Manatee Recorder.

MUST KEEP UP THE SOIL.

No paper ever gave publicity to a more truthful expression than the following from the DeFuniak Breeze:

"There can be no real prosperity in any section which lives by destroying that which nature has furnished and does nothing to replace it."

And if the farmers of Leon and adjacent counties meet true prosperity they must place back in the soil the chemical properties obtained from it by their crops.—Tallahassee True Democrat.

PLAN TO DRAW TRADE.

A plan for drawing trade to a town that has been successfully worked at several points might be adopted to advantage in Starke. The plan is as follows: An agreement was reached between all the merchants whereby they offered special sales certain days, each merchant selecting some special line of goods upon which he made a lower price than usual. Thus one dry goods

SAVINGS
ACCOUNTTHE FIRST
NATIONAL BANK

OF LIVE OAK

Will pay 4 per cent. on all sums left in its Savings Account. Interest period begins January 1st to 10th for next quarter.

Never before has the Bank been in better position to accommodate its customers, and you are invited to become one of them.

CARY A. HARDEE, President

S. B. CONNER, Cashier

W. J. HILLMAN,
THOS. DOWLING, Vice-Presidents

house would sell gloves at a special price, while another would offer bargains in dress goods. One hardware merchant would reduce the price on stoves. Every line of business was represented and care was taken that no conflict occurred. Prizes were then offered to the farmer bringing the best load of grain or the handsomest baby and the bargain day was extensively advertised in the surrounding country, the names of the merchants and their special sales being in all cases stated. The farmers responded in a most gratifying manner and the merchants were well pleased with the plan.—Starke Telegraph.

HELPFUL TO FLORIDA BOYS.

That is an excellent determination reached by the management of the State fair at Tampa. The sum of \$250 in cash prizes will be given to pupils of Florida high schools for agricultural exhibits, the product of their own labor. To Prof. George M. Lynch is due the credit of having conceived this idea and suggested it to the fair association. The acres of Florida are rich with the rarest potentiality for the production of wealth for those who will till the soil and there is no better direction toward which the minds of the boys of the State could turn when seeking for future profitable employment.—Pensacola Journal.

GOVERNOR GILCHRIST AND DRAINAGE.

It is made very clear by a letter of John LaFontaine who managed the campaign of Governor Gilchrist, that that gentleman regards the prosecution of the drainage of the Everglades as a proposition fixed by a law enacted by the legislature and not a matter subject to the discretion of the executive. In this he is doubtless right technically, and not the less as a matter of State policy. This paper has been convinced that the drainage scheme should be pushed at least far enough to test its value and that of the lands reclaimed under it. Governor Gilchrist will move it along in conformity with the act of the legislature, and the results in sight justify it as a good investment for the people of the State.—Tampa Times.

A BIG SET-BACK.


The supreme court decided last week that Chapter 5381, Laws of Florida, which provides that every public school which maintains an average attendance of 80 per cent of the number of pupils enrolled, shall receive State aid in a sum sufficient to maintain the school for two months additional, is unconstitutional.

We fully agree with State Superintendent Holloway that this decision applies with equal force to Chapter 5382 of Florida, which provides for State aid to junior and senior graded high schools and also to Chapter 5657 of the Acts of 1907. This decision, although undoubtedly correct, is a heavy blow

to the progress of our schools and also to the county boards which have unpaid warrants outstanding, which were issued with the expectation of taking them up with the funds derived from the authority of the laws mentioned. There is no help for the county boards thus indebted but to levy a tax commensurate with the necessities of the case and the practice by the county school boards, thus indebted, of the most rigid economy. But, in the light of the decision we naturally inquire, of what use is a "Judiciary Committee" in the legislative proceedings, anyway?—Jasper News.

NO, A THOUSAND TIMES NO!

Christmas passed quietly in the report from all parts of the county. And it is, indeed gratifying to learn that in other towns and communities throughout the county, as in Marianna, there was almost no booze drinking or drunkenness, at all. Each year since we have had local option has shown a great falling off in the use of intoxicating liquors, and the per cent. of decrease has wonderfully increased each year. The good people of Jackson county have great cause to be proud of the fact that the whiskey saloon has gone from her borders to stay. Not a thousand times! our people would not tolerate the traffic again, under any circumstances.—Marianna Times-Courier.



DANGER!
You need not be fearful if you use **BALLARD'S HOREHOUND SYRUP** for that cough. There are many consumptives who now would be well if they had cared for their health.

Ballard's Horehound Syrup Cures Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Sore Throat, Whooping Cough and Lung Troubles.

SAVED SICK SPELLS.
Mrs. Emma Johns, Las Vegas, N. Mex. writes: "I recommend Horehound Syrup to all I know troubled with coughs, colds, etc., I have been saved numerous sick spells, by using this remarkable preparation."

PRICE 25c, 50c, \$1.00

Ballard Snow Liniment Co.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Sold and Recommended by
SUWANNEE DRUG COMPANY.